

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated August 13, 2007. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wong for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a telephone interview conducted on November 13, 2007. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed the amendment presented herein, and pointed out distinguishing features of the claims over the cited art of record.

Claims 1-3 remain pending, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1-3 have been amended, and Claim 28 has been canceled. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,461 (Shinohara). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nonetheless, Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the automatic adjustment portion performs automatic adjustment of said image formation apparatus *for each of a plurality of adjustment items*. Applicants submit that Shinohara fails to teach or suggest, at least, this feature and present the following argument in support.

The outstanding Office Action generally relies on column 8, lines 45-55 and column 10, lines 40-50 of Shinohara for teaching the features set forth in the claims. The cited portions discuss a printer controller making a printer engine issue a "density control command" before a print number N reaches N1 to prevent interruption of a print job currently in progress. However, Shinohara *only* discusses executing a density control command, and is silent as to any

other adjustment items. In contrast, the present invention, as defined by independent Claim 1, has an automatic adjustment portion adapted to perform automatic adjustment of the image formation apparatus for *each of a plurality of adjustment items*.

Claim 1 also now recites that a determining portion determines, for *each of the plurality of adjustment items*, whether or not the number of image formations at which the automatic adjustment is to be performed by the automatic adjustment portion will be reached during execution of a next image formation job queued by the job queuing portion, based on the number of image formations counted by the counting portion a number of image formation to be executed by the next image formation job queued by the job queuing portion and *each of a plurality of thresholds set for each of the plurality of adjustment items*, further distinguishing the claim from the cited art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record. Dependent Claims 2 and 3 are also submitted to be allowable, at least, by virtue of their dependencies on an allowable claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. Independent consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier, because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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